

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 41 and 45 as follows:

41. (Four Times Amended) A method of identifying an agent which enhances the activity of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase mediates immature thymocyte susceptibility to cell death, comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting an isolated form of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, with a caspase substrate in the presence of the agent; and
 - (b) identifying enhancement of caspase or procaspase activity.
45. (Four Times Amended) A method of enhancing the activity of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes, or an active derivative or fragment thereof, wherein said caspase mediates immature thymocyte susceptibility to cell death, comprising contacting an isolated form of a caspase or procaspase expressed in immature thymocytes with an agent that enhances the activity of the caspase or procaspase.

Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

REMARKS

Claims 41, 45 and 63-71 are pending in this application. No claim is allowed.

In this Amendment, Claims 41 and 45 have been amended. The amendment of the claims is for the purpose of more particularly pointing out and clarifying the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention, and for the purpose of expediting prosecution. The amendments should not be construed as agreement with or acquiescence to any of the pending rejections.